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NOTICE: Wilmington Mayor Spence Broadhurst will make a statement about the spill at approximately 2 p.m. today.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 15, 2005

Update on sewer spill at Shipyard Boulevard

A portion of a 24-inch waste water pipe main line has ruptured at 3810 Shipyard Boulevard. Parts of Shipyard Boulevard have been closed to traffic due to the spill. The line pumps waste water to the Southside Waste Water Treatment Plant. City officials estimate that the rupture occurred sometime between 10-11 a.m. The first public notification occurred at 11 a.m.

There is no threat to drinking water and waste water services have not been interrupted. However, as a precaution, the city recommends that citizens not come into contact with the water.

The city has already notified residents in the affected area, both by door-to-door notification and distributing fliers. Signs are also being erected. State, county and health department officials have been notified as well.

At this time, City crews are onsite stabilizing the area around the break. Once the area has been secured, crews can begin excavation to determine what repairs need to be made. Another update will be issued later today when more information becomes available.

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For more information, contact City PIO Malissa Talbert at 342-2736 or 470-8720.

The Division of Water Quality (DWQ) and the New Hanover County Health Department have been notified. For more information, contact Public Utilities Director Hugh Caldwell at 341-7805 or Ken Vogt, waste water treatment superintendent, at 341-7890.